

116TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 6865

To provide emergency assistance to families through home visiting programs  
in response to the COVID–19 pandemic.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 14, 2020

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois (for himself and Ms. CASTOR of Florida) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To provide emergency assistance to families through home  
visiting programs in response to the COVID–19 pandemic.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Home Visiting Resil-  
5 iency in Pandemics Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TO FAMILIES THROUGH**  
2 **HOME VISITING PROGRAMS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of section 511 of the  
4 Social Security Act, during the period that begins on Feb-  
5 ruary 1, 2020, and ends January 31, 2021—

6 (1) a virtual home visit shall be considered a  
7 home visit;

8 (2) funding for, and staffing levels of, a pro-  
9 gram conducted pursuant to such section shall not  
10 be reduced on account of reduced enrollment in the  
11 program; and

12 (3) funds provided for such a program may be  
13 used—

14 (A) to train home visitors in conducting a  
15 virtual home visit and in emergency prepared-  
16 ness and response planning for families served;

17 (B) for the acquisition by families enrolled  
18 in the program of such technological means as  
19 are needed to conduct and support a virtual  
20 home visit;

21 (C) to provide emergency supplies (such as  
22 diapers, formula, non-perishable food, water,  
23 hand soap and hand sanitizer) to families  
24 served; and

25 (D) to provide prepaid debit cards to an el-  
26 igible family (as defined in section 511(k)(2) of

1           such Act) for the purpose of enabling the family  
2           to meet the emergency needs of the family.

3           (b) VIRTUAL HOME VISIT DEFINED.—In subsection  
4 (a), the term “virtual home visit” means a visit that is  
5 conducted solely by electronic means.

6           (c) AUTHORITY TO DELAY DEADLINES.—

7           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and  
8 Human Services may extend the deadline by which  
9 a requirement of section 511 of the Social Security  
10 Act must be met, by such period of time as the Sec-  
11 retary deems appropriate.

12           (2) GUIDANCE.—The Secretary shall provide to  
13 eligible entities funded under section 511 of the So-  
14 cial Security Act information on the parameters  
15 used in extending a deadline under paragraph (1) of  
16 this subsection.

17           (d) SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION.—In addition  
18 to amounts otherwise appropriated, out of any money in  
19 the Treasury of the United States not otherwise appro-  
20 priated, there are appropriated to the Secretary of Health  
21 and Human Services \$100,000,000, to enable eligible enti-  
22 ties to conduct programs funded under section 511 of the  
23 Social Security Act pursuant to this section, which shall

1 remain available for obligation not later than January 31,  
2 2021.

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